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Control: 13160
Rec'd: APRIL 24, 1955
1:44 P M

FROM: SAIGON

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 4775, APRIL 24, 3 P M

SENT DEPARTMENT 4775 REPEATED INFORMATION PARIS 1235

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION

1. LANSDALE WAS CALLED TO PALACE EVENING APRIL 22 FOR CONVERSATION WITH DIEM. PRIME MINISTER SAID HE HAD BEEN UP UNTIL 5 AM THAT MORNING WRITING RADIO SPEECH WHICH HE HAD JUST FINISHED TAPING (EMBTEL 4773 RPTD PARIS 1234). SPEECH WAS TO BE BROADCAST REPEATEDLY APRIL 23 AND REPEATED DURING WEEK. IT WOULD ALSO BE DISTRIBUTED IN WRITTEN FORM THROUGHOUT PROVINCES.

2. LANSDALE INQUIRED WHAT HAD PROMPTED DIEM MAKE THIS DECLARATION. WITHOUT REPLYING DIRECTLY, DIEM SAID: (A) BROTHER LUYEN HAS NOT YET BEEN ABLE SEE BAO DAI BUT IS REPORTING FRENCH ARE PLAYING DEVIOUS GAME TO WRECK DIEM; AND (B) STATE DEPT HAD ASKED VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON WHAT HE THOUGHT OF "DO-MINH-QUAT PROPOSALS FOR CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT."

3. CHANGING SUBJECT, DIEM SHOWED LANSDALE COPY OF CURRENT MESSAGE FROM VIETNAMESE 1ST MILITARY REGION TO SAIGON-CHOLON SUB-DIVISION VIETNAMESE NATIONAL ARMY. MESSAGE PURPORTED TO QUOTE COMMUNICATION FROM FRENCH MILITARY THIRD BUREAU TO FRENCH PROVOST MARSHAL FRENCH COMMUNICATION ALLEGEDLY CONFIRMED VERBAL INSTRUCTIONS TO PROVOST MARSHAL TO ESTABLISH POST IN FRONT VIETNAMESE CENTRAL COMMISSARIAT OF POLICE (PREFECTORAL) ON BOULEVARD GALLIENI AND DIRECTED COMMUNICATION BE ESTABLISHED FROM THIS POST TO OTHER FRENCH MILITARY UNITS.

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4. DUTIES OF POST ALLEGEDLY TO STOP ARMED MEN FROM ENTERING POLICE BUILDING. DIEM INDICATED ORDER WAS TO BE EFFECTIVE NIGHT APRIL 22, BUT LANSDALE POINTED OUT NO DATE SHOWN ON MESSAGE, AND NO EFFECTIVE DATE INDICATED. DIEM PROMISED PRODUCE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT. (COMMENT: WE ARE DOUBTFUL AUTHENTICITY ALLEGED FRENCH DOCUMENT, NOT ONLY BECAUSE WE BELIEVE FRENCH TOO WISE TO TAKE SUCH PROVOCATIVE ACTION, BUT ALSO BECAUSE SUCH CHARGES FIT IN WITH ANTI-FRENCH

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ANTI-FRENCH MIS-INFORMATION BEING SPREAD BY CERTAIN ELEMENTS NATIONAL ARMY.)

5. LANSDALE NEXT INFORMED DIEM HE HAD BEEN RECEIVING INDICATIONS FROM VIETNAMESE OFFICERS AND FROM AMERICAN TRIM OFFICERS SERVING WITH VIETNAMESE ARMY UNITS IN SOUTH THAT INCREASINGLY BITTER ANTI-FRENCH FEELING WAS MOUNTING IN NATIONAL ARMY WITH IMPLICATIONS VIETNAMESE MIGHT CONTEMPLATE ACTION AGAINST FEC. DIEM SAID INFORMATION WAS TRUE. HANDFUL OF YOUNG OFFICERS WERE FEELING THAT WAY. THEY SAY FRENCH HAVE AIR SUPERIORITY BUT VIET MINH BEAT THEM, LANSDALE INTERRUPTED TO SAY US WOULD NEVER STAND FOR ATTACK BY VIETNAMESE AGAINST FRENCH. IF THIS OCCURRED, VIETNAM WOULD BE FINISHED. DIEM IS PRIME MINISTER AND COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF AND SHOULD ISSUE IMMEDIATE INSTRUCTIONS QUASH THIS DANGEROUS LINE OF THOUGHT.

MGG/33

KIDDER